

fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO FILE PRIVILEGED REPORT ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2001

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations may have until midnight tonight, June 23, 2000, to file a privileged report on a bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved.

ESTABLISHING TIME LIMITATIONS ON AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4690, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 4690 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 529 and the order of the House of June 22, 2000, except as specified, each amendment shall be debatable only for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; amendment No. 23 shall be debatable only for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and amendment No. 60 shall be debatable only for 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, let me first tell my chairman that I will not be objecting so that he will not get a heart attack right now.

First let me say that I still have very serious problems with this process which allows people who go up front with amendments the first day or so of deliberation on a bill and certain sections of the bill to go up front to get a certain kind of attention and a certain kind of input in time and then the second part or latter parts of the bill and folks who are either junior Members or have work to do within those parts of the bill get less attention.

I would hope in the future when we sit down to deal with one of these bills, we come to some agreements early on

because I just think it is unfair. However, knowing the need we have to finish this bill and being part of the gentleman's desire to keep this bill moving and improving the bill, I will not object.

However, I would like to ask the gentleman if he knows at this point specifically how many amendments we have left.

Mr. ROGERS. If the gentleman will yield, there are 36 amendments at best count we have at this moment.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the peacekeeping amendment will be allocated 1 hour, the Hostettler guns amendment will be given 30 minutes, and then every other amendment will receive 10 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, but just to express my frustration of hearing so much time spent on nongermane amendments and my amendment that is now being allocated 10 minutes is an amendment that allows the Bureau of Economic Analysis, one of the few areas that Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Fed, has said publicly he thinks needs more funding. The ranking member of the Committee on the Budget has indicated that he thinks the BEA needs more funding. This will preclude that kind of testimony. Two of the Republican Members that have been suggested as possible chairman of the Committee on the Budget have indicated their interest in expanding the allocation for BEA, and they will not have that opportunity at 4 p.m. Monday.

I am concerned again like the ranking member suggested that early amendments utilize so much of the time that cannot be considered any more crucial, any more important or any more dynamic as we move ahead with this budget. I simply express my concern on the decisions and the frustration on the majority leader's part and on the ranking member's part.

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS. I think that we are going to have to address the problem that is being talked about here in some fashion in the procedures under which we operate. I think the Committee on Rules is going to have to look at perhaps time limitations so that everyone is entitled and given some degree of protection that their amendment will receive adequate time and not be hogged, if you will, by the early risers on a bill. It is not fair. The only way I think we can address it is for the Com-

mittee on Rules to come up with some procedure that guarantees that if you are at the end of the bill, you can get the same kind of attention that the people at the beginning part of the bill get.

I think the gentleman makes a real legitimate point, as does the ranking member.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SERRANO. I want to clarify my point. I am not for time limitations. What I am for is for uniformity. While I do not like time limitations, I personally think that there is a contradiction in this House. We celebrate our democracy but we hate debate. And even if it is debate we do not like, that is part of who we are as a Nation.

My opinion is just the opposite, the 5-minute rule and just let it go. If that is what it takes, 3, 4 days, that is what it takes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, on the first 12 amendments we did very well on a lot of debate, and that is part of my concern.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4690, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

(Mr. ROGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the Members of the procedures we will be following in the continued consideration of H.R. 4690 when we resume consideration of the bill on Monday.

I want to make it clear, last night's unanimous consent agreement outlined the procedures for the amendments to be offered. Today's unanimous consent agreement provided for a time agreement on those amendments. The amendments must be offered in regular bill order. Points of order against the amendments have not been waived.

REGARDING THE HOUSE ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEM

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, among my duties in my capacity as chairman of the Committee on House Administration is to oversee the officers of the